Prasar Bharti including the then Chief Executive Officer, 2 Deputy Director General rank officers, 6 Director rank officers and 1 Deputy Director rank officer.

(b) to (d) Charge Sheets for major penalty have been issued to 4 of the above officers, while 2 cases have been closed in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission. Proposal to initiate Regular Departmental Action against 2 officers has been forwarded to the concerned Disciplinary Authority i.e. Department of Personnel & Training while action in respect of 2 officers is under examination in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission and Directorate General, Doordarshan.

At present, none of the officers of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is on sensitive assignment. Others on deputation have been repatriated to their parent cadres while the rest have retired.

Objections to Film Jodhaa Akbar

167. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether members of Rajput families have taken objections to the film "Jodhaa Akbar";

(b) if so, whether any complaint has been received by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting or the Film Censor Board; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) A representation through Ministry of Human Resource Development was received from Maharashtra Rajput Kshatriya Sangh, Nanded. this representation stated that history has been distorted in the film. It said that no Rajput female could have married a foreigner/an enemy of Indian nation. Thus, Jodhaa/Rajput princess marrying Akbar is a figment of imagination. It is also alleged that the film is an attempt to disgrace the Rajput community. It warns that if either Akbar or Jodhaa's name is associated with the Rajput community then it would create a situation leading to a terrible rift between Rajput and Muslim communities and no Government of the country would be able to bridge the divide.

Separate Division under Registrar of Newspapers

168. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two separate Division under the Registrar of Newspapers, are being planned with a view to reducing administrative and procedural delays in terms of registration, ministerial approvals and other legal formalities;

(b) if so, when it is likely to take place;

(c) whether the said bifurcation will be on territorial or on functional basis; and

(d) whether Government will locate one of these two Divisions in Nagpur which is a central place in India?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Two Regional Offices under the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) in

line with the existing Regional Offices at Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai are proposed at Guwahati and Bhopal.

(b) It is envisaged that the Regional Offices at Guwahati and Bhopal would be operational in 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively.

(c) These Offices would coordinate between Headquarter of Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) and the publishers of the region on the matter relating to registration, title etc.

(d) To cater to the needs of Maharashtra State, a Regional Office of RNI is already functioning at Mumbai.

Withdrawal of private channels from DD Direct Plus

169. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several popular private channels were withdrawing their channels from DD Direct Plus services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for expanding its base of DD Direct Plus in all parts of the country and to face the competition of private companies like Dish TV, Tata sky, Reliance, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) DD Direct Plus has already been upgraded from 33 channels to 41 TV channels. 21 channels of All India Radio are also available on the DD Direct Plus. Unlike private DTH services, DD Direct Plus is not charging any monthly subscription from the viewers. DD Direct Plus signals are available throughout the country except Andaman & Nicobar Islands. All DD Channels are also publicizing this service.

Steps to ban obscene telecast

†170. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether obscenity is being shown uninterruptedly in the whole country and Doordarshan Kendras and private channels are no exception to it;

(b) whether Government is contemplating to amend the Indian Penal Code and Women Representation (prohibition) Act, 1986 and other related Acts;

(c) if so, by when these Acts are likely to be amended; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Certain instances of violation of Programme and Advertising Codes have been brought to the notice of the Government, which have been suitably addressed.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.